

That is why my colleagues—Rep. RAÚL GRIJALVA, Rep. EMANUEL CLEAVER, Rep. MAXINE WATERS, Rep. PETE STARK, Rep. DENNIS MOORE, Del. DONNA CHRISTENSEN and Rep. MICHAEL HONDA—sent a letter today to Sen. JOHN KERRY, the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and leader on climate change legislation in the Senate, urging him to double assistance for developing countries in legislation the Senator is currently drafting. As our letter states, “the amount of funding developed countries are currently promising to developed countries is grossly insufficient to meet the need. . . . Given the magnitude of the problem developing countries face, and given the responsibility of developed countries for the majority of historic greenhouse gas emissions, we believe that U.S. climate change legislation should double the emissions allowances currently dedicated in the House bill to international adaptation and mitigation in developing countries.”

Madam Speaker, for the RECORD, I include a full copy of the letter to Senator KERRY.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 15, 2009.

Hon. JOHN F. KERRY,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations,
Dirksen Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: We want to commend you for your valuable contributions toward enacting climate change legislation. We particularly appreciate your introduction of S. 2835, which focuses on the countries most vulnerable to the impacts of global warming. We sincerely hope that with that measure as well as the recent pledges by China and India to curb their emissions relative to economic growth, and President Obama's support for mobilizing developed countries to contribute \$10 billion a year by 2012 and implementing longer-term mechanisms to assist developing countries with adaptation and mitigation, Copenhagen makes substantial progress toward completion of a binding agreement to limit climate change.

The bill you are working on with the Senators Graham and Lieberman offers a crucial opportunity to advance that agreement. We urge you to include an adequate commitment of resources for the nations and peoples most vulnerable to the consequences of global warming in that legislation.

The needs of developing countries are manifest. As noted by the recent World Development Report 2010, even if average global temperatures rise only 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, “Between 100 million and 400 million more people could be at risk of hunger. And 1 billion to 2 billion more people may no longer have enough water to meet their needs. . . . It is estimated that developing countries will bear most of the costs of the damages—some 75–80 percent.” As the Stern Review made clear, even if greenhouse emissions ceased today, the world would still face at least two decades of increasing global temperatures.

In the very near future, higher temperatures will lead to economic and political instability, refugee crises and conflicts over ever-scarcer natural resources in developing nations, all of which will have direct, negative implications for developing and developed countries alike. That is why the United Nations negotiating blocs of Least Developed Countries and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)—which together represent 80 countries least responsible for climate change but most severely affected by it—have recently called for a minimum 45 percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels by 2020. They are further requesting that there be no more than a 1.5 global temperature rise from pre-industrial

levels, and that atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations return to below 350 parts per million of carbon dioxide equivalent.

As AOSIS has pointed out, “Serious adverse impacts are already being felt by island states at the current 0.8°C of warming, including coastal erosion, flooding, coral bleaching and more frequent and intense extreme weather events. The U.N.'s lead agency on refugees has already warned that some particularly low-lying island states are ‘very likely to become entirely uninhabitable’.”

Estimates vary on the level of funding needed by the developing world to lessen the destabilizing impacts of climate change that will likely occur regardless of the adoption of an international agreement. However, the UN's latest Human Development Report estimates that additional adaptation finance needs alone will amount to \$86 billion annually by 2015. And last week in Copenhagen, Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, said that developed countries should expect to contribute \$100 billion annually to developing nations.

Yet the amount of funding developed countries are currently promising to developed countries is grossly insufficient to meet the need. The United States must demonstrate leadership if the developed world is to meet its obligation to provide appropriate sums. The Congressional Research Service's calculation of the funding produced by H.R. 2454 for developing countries—based on the current percentage of emissions allowances dedicated to international adaptation and international clean technology deployment and the allowance prices used in the EPA/IGEM Model—suggests that less than \$1 billion per year would be available in 2012, rising to less than \$1.6 billion by 2020.

Given the magnitude of the problem developing countries face, and given the responsibility of developed countries for the majority of historic greenhouse gas emissions, we believe that U.S. climate change legislation should double the emissions allowances currently dedicated in the House bill to international adaptation and mitigation in developing countries.

While such enhanced allocations would amount to substantial sums of money, we believe they will more than pay for themselves over time when compared to American commitments of troops and resources that would likely be required to address adverse impacts in developing countries affecting vital U.S. interests. As retired Marine Corps General Anthony Zinni, former commander of U.S. Central Command, has noted, “We will pay now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions . . . or we will pay the price later.”

Again, we applaud your efforts at addressing the enormous challenge of climate change. As legislation moves toward passage in the Senate, we sincerely hope that it provides increased commitments to the countries and peo-

ples most vulnerable to the consequences of global warming.

Sincerely,

ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA,
Member of Congress.
RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,
Member of Congress.
EMANUEL CLEAVER,
Member of Congress.
MAXINE WATERS,
Member of Congress.
PETE STARK,
Member of Congress.
DENNIS MOORE,
Member of Congress.
DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN,
Member of Congress.
MICHAEL M. HONDA,
Member of Congress.

CONGRATULATING RAPIDES REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, today I stand before you proud to announce that the Rapides Regional Medical Center has been named one of the nation's 100 Top Hospitals for cardiovascular care. Moreover, this hospital, located in Alexandria, Louisiana, is the only hospital in Louisiana to make Thomson Reuters' 2009 list.

As a premier teaching hospital, Rapides Regional Medical Center cultivates a community of care. The annual study examines the performance of 971 hospitals by analyzing clinical outcomes for patients diagnosed with heart failure and heart attacks, and for those who received coronary bypass surgery or interventions such as angioplasties.

As noted by the Thompson Reuters Company, “results show these top performers not only provided exceptional inpatient care, but also had significantly better post-discharge outcomes, including lower readmission rates for heart failure and heart attack patients as well as lower 30-day mortality rates for heart attack patients. This means that patients treated in hospitals with balanced high performance in cardiovascular care are more likely to have better results 30 days after discharge.”

At a time when our healthcare system is under constant scrutiny by citizens and public servants alike, the team at Rapides Regional Medical Center provides hope and reassurance that in fact, the United States, and Louisiana, offer exceptional care.

I join those whose lives have been touched by Rapides Regional Medical Center in saying congratulations and thank you for the dedication to excellence by each employee and doctor on staff.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PHOEBUS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. ROBERT C. “BOBBY” SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise on behalf of myself, Congressman ROB WITTMAN and Congressman GLENN NYE to call attention to a group of young students from Hampton, Virginia, who have once again distinguished themselves, their school, their community and the Commonwealth of Virginia.